

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, MX
SUBJECT: REGISTRATION OF THE MEXICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

1. ON APRIL 11 THE PCM PRESENTED ITS APPLICATION FOR
CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION AS A LEGALLY RECOGNIZED POLITICAL
PARTY TO THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION. ITS REGIS-
TRATION WAS MADE POSSIBLE UNDER THE RECENTLY ENACTED LAW
ON POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ELECTORAL PROCESSES.
CONDITIONAL REGISTRATION CAN BE EXTENDED TO PARTIES THAT
HAVE BEEN ACTIVE FOR FOUR YEARS AND REPRESENT A POLITICAL
OPINION, AND IT CAN BE CONVERTED TO DEFINITIVE REGISTRATION
BY OBTAINING 1.5 OF THE VOTE IN THE 1979 CONGRESSIONAL
ELECTIONS. WHILE CLAIMING 100,000 AFFILIATES, MORE THAN
THE REQUIRED 65,000 FOR DEFINITIVE REGISTRATION, THE PCM
DID NOT SEEK DEFINITIVE REGISTRATION IN ORDER TO AVOID
PROVIDING THE GOVERNMENT WITH ITS MEMBERSHIP LISTS. THE
PCM WAS FOUNDED IN 1919 AND HAS THE DISTINCTION OF BEING
THE OLDEST ACTIVE PARTY IN MEXICO.

2. AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FEDERAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION,
MOVING FORCE BEHIND LOPEZ PORTILLO'S POLITICAL REFORM
PROGRAM, AND A LEADING PRI THEORETICIAN IN THE PAST,
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SECRETARY OF GOBERNACION JESUS REYES HEROLES PRESIDED OVER
THE MEETING IN WHICH THE PCM REQUESTED ITS REGISTRATION.
REGISTRATION OF THE PCM VINDICATES REYES HEROLES' BELIEF
THAT THE MEXICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM CAN AND SHOULD AC-
COMMODATE ALL LEGITIMATE POLITICAL OPINIONS THAT ARE
WILLING TO OPERATE WITHIN MEXICAN LAW. IN HIS REMARKS
HE REMINDED THE PCM LEADERS THAT THE RIGHT OF REGISTRATION

CARRIES WITH IT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OBEYING THE LAW.
IN HIS MOST CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENT HE SAID THAT IF
THE GOVERNMENT MOVES TO THE RIGHT, IT WILL BE BECAUSE THE
LEFT IS TOO INEFFICIENT TO STOP IT AND THE GOVERNMENT
INCAPABLE OF AVOIDING IT.

3. COMMENT: THAT THE LATTER REMARK SHOULD PROVOKE
CONTROVERSY, WHEN THE PRI'S LACK OF IDEOLOGY IS ITS
TRADEMARK, IS A GOOD INDICATION OF THE PREVALENCE OF
SYMBOLISM OVER SUBSTANCE IN THE MEXICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM.
LUCY

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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